

HILL-ROBERTS NEWS NOVEMBER 2009



November is upon us and we have a busy month. November 6th concludes Term 1 and report cards will be going home December 7th. The first teacher conferences are scheduled for December 9th and 10th. Conference information will be going home on November 30th.

We have adapted a new standard based report card this year. On November 30th I will be holding a parent information night to review and explain in detail the new standard based report card. Please come to the presentation to learn more about our new standard based report card.

The goals of that meeting will be: To help parents better understand what standards are and how they work; To show parents the advantages of standards based reporting and merits of standards-based report cards; To give families a better understanding of how the standards based report card works; Review the language of the new revised report card

Message to parents from the Nurses:

As we begin to see more influenza like illness showing up in our schools, please remember the importance of:

- Good hand washing and cough etiquette.
- Keeping students home when they are sick.
- Students must be fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication such as Advil or Tylenol.

These simple precautions go a long way in helping prevent the spread of all illness.

For more information or a copy of the "Swine Flu Symptom checklist" please see our Health Services web page by going to the district web page at Attleboroschools.com. Under the "Families" section you will see "Your child's Health".

H1N1 Vaccination

The Attleboro Health Department has not yet received any doses of H1N1 influenza vaccine. Once they start receiving enough supply from the Massachusetts Department of Health, clinic dates will be announced and we will post them on our webpage as well as the City of Attleboro webpage.

Substitute Nurses

We are currently looking for qualified substitute nurses to work in the schools. If you are interested, please contact Deb Ebert, Nurse Coordinator at 508-222-5150 ext. 386. You must be a Registered Nurse holding a valid license in Massachusetts.

Upcoming November Events: *Food Drive Month for Families in Need*

<u>Date/Time</u>	<u>Event</u>
November 6 th	Grades Close
November 11 th	No School Veterans' Day
November 13 th	Picture Retakes
November 17 th at 7:00pm	PTO Meeting
November 23 rd 3:30pm	School Council
November 24 th Note new date	Roller Skating Event 6:00pm-8:00pm
November 25 th -27 th	Thanksgiving Break
November 30 th	Report card conference appointment letters go home with students

Calling all clean hands

It is very exciting to have the amount of technology and teachers incorporating the high level of instructional technology at Hill-Roberts. The challenge with all the wonderful technology is the amount of contact our students have with the interactive whiteboards and laptops. We are trying to have students wash hands or quick wipe of young hands after usage. The issue becomes the volume of wipes we are using. We are always thankful for any donation of hand wipes in classrooms with a high degree of technology contact. Technology and clean hands will be a discussion point during the principal's report at the next PTO meeting. Please come with any ideas to assist us to keep clean and continue to incorporate a high level of technology education at Hill-Roberts.

GRADE LEVEL UPDATES

Kindergarten News

October was been an extremely busy month for our kindergarteners. Our most exciting event was our trip to Four Towns Farm. The children enjoyed exploring the machines and workers that team up to grow a variety of crops. While visiting the farm the children packaged carrots and picked their own pumpkin. As a group we observed vegetables that grew above ground and below ground, what is needed to make a plant grow, and the major parts of a plant.

Some of our favorite stories in Reading Street last month were: Miss Bindergarten takes a Field Trip with Kindergarten, Julius, The Three Little Pigs, and Dig Dig Digging. During the month of October we spent time discussing fire safety. We practiced our escape plan in our classroom and it is encouraged to set up your own at home.

Math this month has focused on exploring 2-dimensional shapes, spatial relations vocabulary (up/down), and counting and numeral recognition skills.

*Skills to continue working on at home include: number and letter identification, letter formation, counting by 1s, 2s, 5s, and 10s, and rhyming words.

News from 1st Grade

Wow! October has certainly flown by. Our first graders are just about wrapping up Unit One of Reading Street. They will be taking their benchmark test soon after. In mid-November you can expect to see a lot of long vowels coming home!

Next week, we will begin working on Unit 3 in math, which covers visual patterns, number patterns, and counting. Also, don't forget to record those reading minutes on the calendars! All first graders should be reading between 10 and 15 minutes nightly.

Now that fall is here, remember to dress with warm layers because you can always take them off!

Lastly, if anyone has games they can bring in we would greatly appreciate. Once the snowy months arrive, we are always looking for new activities to do at recess.

2nd Grade

Second grade just completed Unit 1 for ELA on "Explorations". They will be starting Unit 2 "Working Together" on Monday. The students are also finishing their writing projects about "A Special Place" they explored.

Last Tuesday, Mrs. Brown visited the second grade and talked about The

Attleboro Public Library. She met with each class discussing proper book care,

library rules and their responsibility as a borrower. During the winter, we will be visiting the library and checking out our own books. We are looking forward to our trip to see Mrs. Brown once again.

News from the 3rd Grade:

Time flies when you're having fun! The third grade will start Unit 2 in Reading Street the first week of November. The theme for Unit 2 is "Smart Solutions". We will be reading and discussing smart ways problems are solved. This month in Everyday Math we will be focusing on measurements, area, and start multiplication and division. It is never too early to start practicing multiplication facts! Do not forget to visit the third grade website and your teacher's personal website for additional information.

Congratulations to Mrs. Dugan's class for winning the spirit award!!! They have spirit yes they do!

A notice was sent home the week of October 18th from Mrs. Campbell's class. They have begun a 12 week community project by collecting gently used children's books. At the end of 12 weeks a notice will be sent out for the shopping date and time. The book prices will range from \$.25 to \$4.00. The grade that brings in the most books will be able to shop first. All proceeds will be donated to Kids for Wish Kids (Make a Wish Foundation). This foundation allows children to help other children with life-threatening diseases. We can all make a difference in a child's life!

News from Fourth Grade

The fourth grade has been busy in October. We have finished unit 2 in math and have moved on to unit 3. The focus is multiplication and division. It is very important that each night the students are practicing their multiplication/division facts. Knowing their facts, will help students when we begin algebra, fractions, and other higher level math skills. In ELA, we are wrapping up Unit 1. The theme was "This Land is Your Land". The students have worked very hard, and we know they will do well on their first benchmark. There are some great stories in Unit 2. We will even be dressing up for one of the stories! The theme for Unit 2 is "Work and Play". It will certainly be an exciting unit!

- The Fourth Grade Team

STUDENT SECTION: HUSKY NEWS CREW



Mona Monkeys

By: Ben

The Mona monkey's fur is red and brown. Most of the time boys are bigger than girl Mona monkeys. Mona monkeys live in southwest Africa. There is a maximum of 50 in a pack and the minimum is five. When they think danger is coming the stand completely still. Mona monkeys make very loud noises.

Black Bears

Shawn G.

If you like black bears, you're reading the right thing! They live in forests, swamps, and wooded mountains. Black Bears can climb trees, swim, and run up to 30 miles per hour. They eat nuts, berries, bugs, and fish. Black Bears live for about twenty- five years. They live in 40 different states and there are over 300,000 of them in the United States. The black bear usually breeds in June. The female has about 2

Recycling

By: Madison L.

Did you know that Americans throw away 4.6 pounds of garbage per person each day? That's a fact! Almost one quarter of what we throw in the trash can be recycled. Do you use a lot paper? Here is a helpful tip. Use both sides when you can! Paper is made of trees. Trees are cut down to make paper. We can all help save the earth if we recycle. We can all help by following the three R's: Reduces, Reuse, and RECYCLE!! What do the three R's mean? Reduce using products that can't be recycled. For example, use a dish cloth instead of paper towels. Reuse items instead of throwing them away. For example, you can turn a cereal box into an arts and crafts mail box for kids! Most importantly, RECYCLE is when items that can be reused are remade into new things. You'd be surprised what can be done with a recycled product ...a recycled soda bottle can be remade into a T-shirt!! We can all make a difference if we just recycle!

Bus Monitors

By: Danny S.

Bus monitors help kids in bus lines behave and get on the correct bus. They walk up and down the bus lines to make sure kids sit straight and listen to the teachers on bus duty. Students that are caught being good can get excellence awards. Bus Monitors are 4th graders only. Bus Monitor jobs are sign holder, kindergarten monitor, or back monitor. Sign holder holds a sign letting people know that that bus is that bus and makes sure kids behave. Back Monitor actually watches the whole line. Kindergarten Monitors watch the kindergarten.

Bull Sharks

By Dan P.

Bull sharks are very unique looking sharks. The sharks are grey on top and white on the underneath. A bull shark's snout is small, but it is wide. The tooth of a bull shark is very sharp and is a triangular shape. There are four rows of teeth in a bull sharks mouth. When they lose one of their teeth another tooth moves into its place in that same row. The bull sharks eat almost anything. Bull sharks can survive in fresh waters and can be found near the shore. They live on the tropical shore line. Their weight limit is 200 to 500 pounds. It is important to learn about bull sharks because you should watch out for them.

Thursday, October 8th was National Poetry Day

Back CatBy: Shawn G.

A black cat swift and sneak,
Lurking lurking in the shadows.
Looking out he's very impressive
Running running on his speedy feet.

I can't believe my eyes
For he was running out of the wilderness
Right into my arms.
That's how he makes a mess.
If this is a new species

I don't know what to say
A naturalist couldn't even tell
What I felt right now today.

I would like to preserve this cat
From any kind of harm
I like this cat and he likes me
I guess he is a charm!

Maine Animals
By Robbie T.

Maine has some very cool animals. The first animal I'm going to talk about is a moose. Moose are the state animal of Maine. They mostly eat water plants. They are semi aquatic mammals, because they spend time in the water. Another animal found in Maine is the black bear. They can live in the woods and in mountain. They eat bugs, berries and fish. Hikers should stay away from black bears because they are wild animals and need to be treated with respect. MAINE IS A GREAT STATE!



My Dog
By: Gabrielle C.

Do you know what a Leopard Catahoula is? It's a dog! And I have one! My dog is from Louisiana, wow that is far away! They have been around for hundreds of years...wow!

They are very cute dogs. They can be a lot of different colors, and they usually have spots. They are about 20-26 inches tall and weigh between 50-70 pounds.

The dogs like to go hunting but if they see a bird very low to the ground they go after them. These dogs are very active. They are herd dogs so they would rather be running free and not to stay in a small yard.

If you are looking for a dog and have a big yard, check out the Leopard Catahoula.

Harvest Hoopla
By. Madison L.

I was so excited for the Harvest Hoopla that I had to know more about it. So I interviewed Mr. Stors the PTO President to learn more! He was a great person to interview, and I even got a sneak peak at the HAUNTED HALLWAY! If you weren't able to attend the Harvest Hoopla, or maybe you didn't get to see everything, I wanted to share it with you! The Harvest Hoopla was special because there was something for everyone to do! There was even a bake sale and pizza. I loved the bake sale because the treats were so good. There was also a pumpkin carving contest. There were four categories of awards. They were silly, scary, most original, and most school spirit. Mr. Stors was a great DJ. I can't wait for more Hill-Roberts events during the year!

An Interview with Mrs. McManuis By: Dalton J.

- Why did you choose this job?
I wanted to share my knowledge of reading and writing to help make our school a literacy rich place.
- What are your expectations this year?
To help the students of Hill-Roberts become better readers and writers.
- How can we reach our goals in the Reading Street program?
By working together and keeping the best interest of every student.
- How do you like our school so far?
I love our school! It's a great place to be and work. I think we have a great school community.
- What is your favorite thing in the Reading Street program?
I love the stories in Reading Street.
- Why is it so important for 4th graders to achieve our goals in the Reading Street program?
To become better readers and writers so everyone is prepared for middle school.
- What should we expect going into 5th grade?
In 5th grade there will be more challenging stories reading more genres and writing for different purposes.
- Where can we go to learn more about the reading street program?
On the Reading Street website at www.pearsonsuccessnet.com